

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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You are the
God who works
wonders.

PSALM 77:14

The Open Door

Volume 13, No. 6

June 2016

Dear Friends,

We have entered Ordinary Time in the cycle of our church year. The color for Ordinary Time is green – the color of life and growth. This is the time when we nurture our roots of faith with the stories of Jesus and God's people through the ages. Throughout the month of June we will hear the stories of the prophets, Elijah and Elisha, in 1st and 2nd Kings. We will hear stories of Jesus healing and teaching. In Sunday School, the children will combine into one class to learn in depth about Paul and his journeys as well as the churches he helped to start. Just as the grass and crops will grow from a balance of sun and rain, so too our life of faith grows with a balance of ordinary time and festival time. I hope to see you often this summer as we nourish our roots and grow in our faith together.

I have some exciting news to share with you. After more than two years of discernment, the session has approved Bethel getting the new *Glory To God* hymnals. This new hymnal has 75% of the hymns in the current hymnal as well as many more hymns and songs from around the world. And a few of the old favorites, like, *Rock of Ages*, have been included as well. The hymnal can also be used as a worship book since it has communion, baptism, and reaffirmation of baptismal vows services.

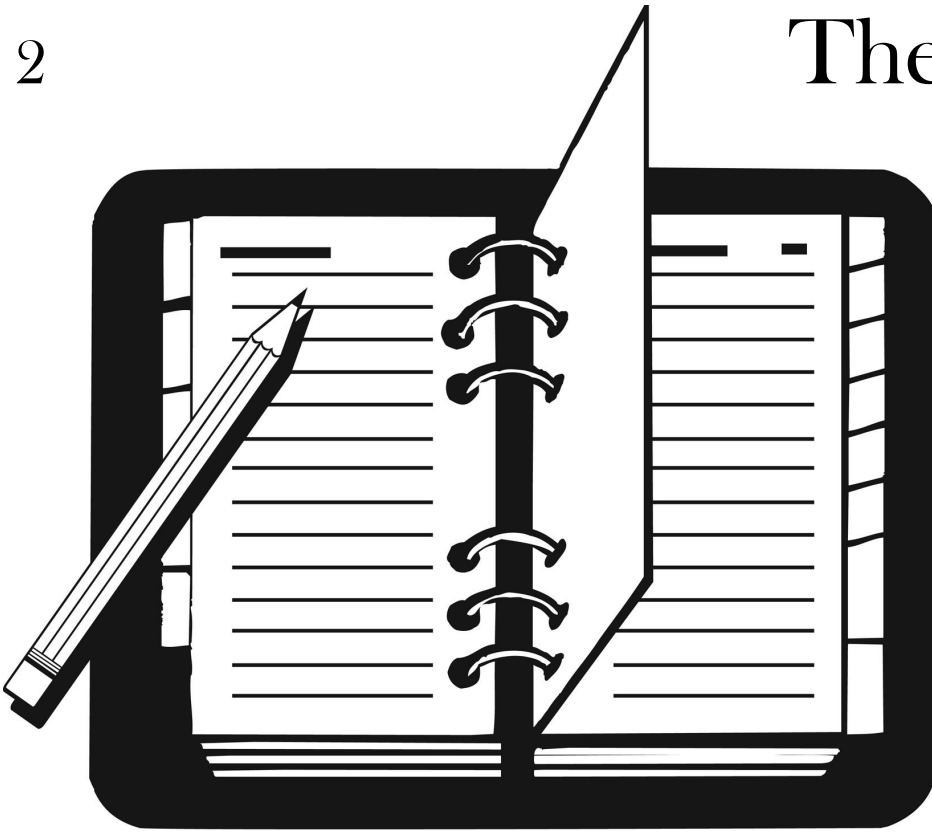
Over the last few years, we have been using this hymnal – just as inserts rather than the book itself. Now there are many Sundays where we are inserting as many or more hymns than

we sing out of the blue hymnal. So we are making the switch. The *Glory to God* hymnals cost \$20 each. You are invited to purchase one for the sanctuary either in memory or in honor of someone. We will have nameplates for the hymnals to acknowledge those dedications. Forms will be in the Gathering Area for those who want to purchase and donate hymnals. If you want to donate a hymnal but will not be at Bethel in the coming weeks, please call the church office and we will assist you. We look forward to using the *Glory to God* hymnals in August.

Grace and peace.

Wendy

The Open Door



PENCIL IT IN

VBS plans are underway!

This year we will do a one day
Vacation Bible School:
Saturday, June 25
Journeys of Paul

This VBS calls for lots of volunteers as we will be traveling by boat to different cities Paul visited.

Below is a list of things we need as well as volunteer positions to be filled:

Docks/yards to serve as
"cities"

Boats - preferably pontoons

Life jackets - kid and adult sizes
Volunteers at each site to help
with activities

Volunteers at each site to lead
activities

Volunteers to provide food
(lunch and or snacks)

Volunteers to drive food to sites

Volunteers to help with sign-in
at the church on Jun 25

If you want to be involved,
please contact Jan Rybka
at jgrybka@hotmail.com or 882-
8836.

Youth are encouraged to participate as helpers on boats or at sites. Thanks in advance for your help in making this a memorable VBS for everyone involved.

And last, but not least,
we need your registrations
NOW! We need an accurate
count of attendees and helpers
so that (among other things) we
know how many t-shirts to order,
boats and life jackets to procure,
and food to bring! Please

fill out the attached registration
form and drop it in the offering
plate or bring it to the church
office **NO LATER THAN**
SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH.
DON'T GET LEFT OUT!

__ _ (Tear Here) __ _

Vacation Bible School
Registration
June 25, 2016

Name _____

Age _____

(children under age 5 must be
accompanied by a parent or
responsible adult)

Name of Adult who will go
along (see above):

T-shirt Size: _____

Life Jacket Size: _____

Food allergies or medical
conditions:

Contact info:
Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

email: _____

Sign up now!
Don't miss the boat!

Summer Movie Nights

The last two summers, the movie nights have been a great hit. We hope this year's line up will be just as exciting. Remember that the movies are on Friday nights and start at 8:30pm on the porch. You should bring a chair and a drink. Popcorn is provided. Invite your friends and family!

June 10:

HOME

July 8:

Star Wars – the Force Awakens

Aug 5:

The Peanuts Movie

Celebration of New Members at June Fellowship Supper

We will celebrate new members at the June Fellowship Supper on the 15th beginning at 6:30 P.M. This will be an excellent opportunity to visit with these individuals who have joined our congregation. Please join us for this special occasion in the life of Bethel.

Thanks,

Amber Jacks

Mission Trip Sign-Up

The deadline to sign-up for the Fall Break Mission Trip to the Border is this week. Let Pastor Wendy know if you are planning on going or if you need more information.



Hands of Mercy (HOME) food pantry:

Non-perishable food items can be brought in through-out the month and placed in the HOME collection basket in the Gathering Area.

Our June focus foods will be **Soup / Crackers**

Thank you for supporting our local food pantry and helping feed hungry folks in our community.

General Assembly

The General Assembly meets this year from June 18-25 in Portland, OR. Please pray for the commissioners who will travel, the Presbyterians in Portland who will help host, and those who are standing for Moderator as well as Stated Clerk. We will have both pre-assembly and post-assembly information sheets available in the Gathering Area so you can keep up with what is happening.

Summer Congregational Outings

BASEBALL: If you love baseball, join us for a Tennessee Smokies game on Sunday, June 26. Tickets are \$15 each which includes the game and a meal voucher (hotdog, chips and drink or pizza and drink). Advanced tickets can be purchased for the children's fun area for \$3 or they are \$5 at the gate. The game starts at 5:05pm. We will leave from the church at 3:30pm. In order to get the group ticket rate, and have a block of seats, we need to reserve them. Reservations and money are due to the office by Friday, June 10.

THEATER: We are going to see the play, *Smoke on the Mountain*, on Tue, July 19 at 1pm CST at the Cumberland County Playhouse. If you haven't seen this play, you must join us. And if you have, you will surely want to see it again. Group tickets are \$20 each. This play is already filling up so reservations and money are due in the office by Wed, June 15. We will leave from Bethel at 12:45pm EST.

For more information on either of these summer congregational outings, see Wendy Neff.

A letter from Grace School:

Hello to the Bethel Family,

I have been well and doing well with both the school and home. My children are now adults and each leaving on their own but I often hear from them, and we visit each other once in a while. Peter is still there in U.S.A, now married with 3 wonderful children whom I hope to see soon. I am well; my health is great and I thank God for that. I still do a lot of farming at my home - a few cows and I have planted a lot of different vegetables to supplement on the feeding programme back at school which I believe really helps on reducing the budget on the programme.

The school is still running smoothly. We resumed back for

our second term on Wed May 4th. The kids in the school are doing well and we have not heard any major incidences over the holidays. Much has happened over the years since I took over the leadership of the school and also the population of the school has really grown big. We have around 212 pupils which is quite a number. My biggest challenge being retaining teachers and other members of the staff due to payment issues because the inflation has gone up in the country, hence the demand for better pay. All the same I thank God for the little I am able to do especially offering quality affordable education and healthy warm foods for the children



everyday. This is made possible because of your generous giving towards the work of Grace school, we are still receiving a check from Bethel, and we say asante sana {THANK YOU SO

MUCH}.

Please continue praying for me and the Grace school community, and pass my regards to other friends of the Grace School.

Thank you once again,
Monica

Landscape Committee –

June 2016

Article by Jane Walsh

Do you like “dirt” under your finger nails and on your hands? Do you like to feel good both physically and mentally? Studies have shown that gardening is one of the most beneficial forms of exercise. The gardens at Bethel have been popular with many people; both in the church and around town since we began planting in 2009. We have had a good time and good fellowship working on them. However, times and events change in our lives. Some of our most productive gardeners are moving on to different life styles and we will miss them deeply, both in the gardens



and as very dear friends. We wish them the very best in their new lives and just hope they do not forget us. Others on our Committee have health issues, and some of us have finally been blessed with grandchildren and stay on the road a lot visiting them.

The bottom line is, the Landscape Committee is in desperate need of more help in the gardens if we are going to keep them as interesting as in the past. We are not asking for hours of commitment each week. We are looking for several people who can keep an eye on a particular area and weed, water, or do as they feel is necessary. Some of our larger areas

have enough plant ground cover that excessive weeding, watering, and mulching are no longer necessary. Bethel flower garden areas are certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Friendly Habitat. We try to keep as much variety as possible in our plantings, and we try to limit our use of chemicals. Many people from outside Bethel tell us they make monthly trips around our grounds to take pictures, get ideas, or just to see what is blooming. Our gardens are just another Bethel contribution to our community. If you would like to be in charge of a particular garden area, please contact Cathy McDowell (376-7616).

The Open Door

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May 2016 Session Highlights

- 1) The monthly Stated Session Meeting was held on Sunday, May 15, 2016.
- 2) Elder Rylander did the devotion.
- 3) A note of thanks was received from Family Promise – expressing appreciation to Bethel for the donation of money that Bethel received at Easter Breakfast and also expressing appreciation to those who gave donations, volunteered time, and shopped at the Family Promise Rummage Sale.
- 4) Written or oral reports were received from the Session Teams.
- 5) Rev. Neff began teaching the Confirmation classes on April 3. The four Confirmands had a lot of work to do in 4 weeks and did it well. The Confirmands with their partners are Henry Coen – Eric Windhausen; Pablo Crocker – Liz Singley; Bryson Turnbull – Gary LeMasters; Pedro Crocker – Or-

lando Vanegas. There was a Called Session Meeting on May 18, 2016 for the purpose of examining the four Confirmands. Charlie, Pablo, Bryson, and Pedro were present for examination. They each shared their Statement of Faith and answered several questions. The session passed a motion to sustain their examination and to receive the Confirmands into Active membership. Confirmation Sunday is May 22, 2016. The four Confirmands will publicly profess their faith on that day and that is the day they will become members. Bryson will also be baptized May 22, 2016.

6) The next Stated Session Meeting will be on Sunday June 12, 2016 at 12:15 p.m. Note: Father's Day is June 19, so the session meeting will be on June 12 rather than the normal 3rd Sunday.

7) The session minutes are stored in the church office. These minutes are open for anyone to read or research a topic, but please do this in the church office.

Thank you, Cathy McDowell – Clerk

Saying Bye-Bye to Joan!

After working with Joan for a little over five years, how in the world am I ever going to be able to say bye-bye to her? IT WON'T BE EASY!!!

At 10 o'clock every Saturday morning for the past five years, I have met Joan Davis at Bethel Presbyterian Church to arrange the sanctuary flowers for Sunday's service. Joan not only planted most of the flowers we have used, she also spent time cutting and conditioning the flowers in warm water – this before any arranging took place!

When she pulled up to the church, her truck would be loaded to the ceiling with BUCKETS of gorgeous flowers. Yes, five gallon buckets of flowers! From beautiful daffodils and tulips in spring, to bright faced sunflowers, zinnias of every imaginable color as well as gorgeous dahlias in the summer. Joan had spent hours in her garden even before arriving at Bethel's doorway!

What a treat for me to have worked with Joan these many Saturday mornings! She has been the kindest, most loveable person in the world – never have I heard her say an unkind word. We worked nicely together and had so much fun; our arrangements just worked out beautifully – magical, I'll say!

I wish you and Addie much happiness in your new adventure. Your new neighborhood in St. Louis is lucky to have you.

Love to you always,
Nancy Braski

Be merciful,
JUST AS YOUR FATHER
is merciful.
LUKE 6:36

In memory of Ruth Ann Ludwig from:

Jim and Mary B. Hines
Dave and Helen Stevenson
R. Allen and Sandra Williams
Clay and Nancy Landers
John and Kim Banker
Liz Singley
Melvin and Gayle Bosma

June Birthdays:

- 2 Carol Brown
- 3 Maria Gasparetti
- 4 Susan Garner
- 5 Dick Maynard
- 8 Kaylee Brown
- 9 Kelly Shadden Maddux
Tauno Maki
Susannah Morgan



- 10 Danny Holloway
- 12 Doug Brown
- 14 Mike McElhinney
- 15 Ellen Dailey
Jesse Richmond
Jordan Sherrod
- 18 Linda Jones
- 19 Linda Brown
Charlotte Knies
- 22 Wayne Jackson, Sr.
Willie Mae Meers
John Parkinson
- 24 John Richmond
- 25 Dave Braski
Chuck Garner
- 27 Micki Anderson
- 28 Marilyn Harris
- 29 Kerry Hyder



Assisted Living and Nursing Homes:

Wellington Place

1098 Bradford Way, Kingston
37763

Chris Badger Room 107

TN Veterans' Home

1 Veterans Way, Knoxville 37931

Jan Parker

Cornerstone Village-North

2-1 Oak St., Johnson City 37601

Tauno Maki

At Home:

Marianne & Bill Shadden;
Brenda & Larry Strickling;
Sue Mueke;
Nikki Robbins;
Molly Cooper (*Chris Badger's daughter*);
Harold & Martha Underwood
(*Anita Richmond's parents*).

memorials & gifts

In memory of Lucy Webb from:
Tom and Jane Pickel
Gary and Dianne Griffith
Lawrence and Pauline Perry
Frank and Mary Koon
Mark Webb
Ruth Heitkamp

In memory of Rev. Dick Hettrick from:

Greg and Margaret Murr
Mark and Kathy Banker

In memory of Rev. Marc Sherrod from:
Mark and Kathy Banker

In memory of Alfred Kinser from
Tom and Jane Pickel

In memory of Sam Davis from
Gary and Dianne Griffith

In memory of Jack Muecke from
Clay and Nancy Landers

June 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Each Week: Bethel Arts Ministry: Art Club—Adults: Mon. 10-Noon & Mon 6:30-8:30 PM Taoist Tai Chi: Tues. 6-7:30 PM, Fri. 10-11:30 AM, Sat. 9-10:30 AM			1	2	3 10 Ten Book Group	4
5 Communion Sunday Faith Team 12:15	6	7	8	9 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	10 Movie Night 8:30	11 Digital Arts Group 10 AM
12 Session	13 Finance Team 6 PM	14	15 Study Team 5:30 Property Team 5:30 Fellowship Team 5:30 Felllowship Supper 6:30	16	17	18
19 Hands of Mercy Offering	20	21	22	23 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	24	25 VBS—Travels of Paul 9 AM-3 PM
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <<<<<<<<<<General Assembly in Portland, Oregon>>>>>>>>>>>> </div>						
26 Serve Team 12:15 Smokies Baseball 3:30	27 Generosity Team 7 PM	28	29	30		